

The Children's Newspaper, Week Ending April 6, 1957

OUR BLACKBIRDS—See page 5

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1985, April 6, 1957



Awkward in armour

Part of the film *St. Joan* was shot at Frensham Ponds, in Surrey, and the arrival of steel-clad men-at-arms quickly attracted the youngsters of the neighbourhood. One of them wanted to see if a heavyweight like this could ride a lightweight bicycle. The answer seems to have been yes.

LUNCH WITH THE GORILLAS

Miss Rosalie Osborne, of Nairobi, can now claim to have had lunch with gorillas.

These great apes, the only colony of mountain gorillas in the British Commonwealth, live on an extinct volcano in the south-west corner of Uganda, where Miss Osborne has spent the past four months studying their habits.

She was walking across a clearing in the forest when she came across some of them eating bamboo shoots. When they saw Miss Osborne and her companions, they retreated to the edge of the clearing, but continued with the bamboo shoots—always a favourite dish.

"I was delighted that they took so little notice of us," Miss Osborne said afterwards. "As it was two o'clock, we sat in the clearing and quietly ate our lunch, in perfect harmony with our hairy friends, munching theirs not more than 35 yards away!"

The next day Miss Osborne again saw the gorillas, and watched three of them playing for about half an hour in an umbrella-shaped tree. They knew they were being

watched, and posted one of their number as a look-out, but he just leaned back against a branch, put his hands behind his head, and eyed Miss Osborne with an air of supreme indifference.

At other times, however, the gorillas proved very elusive, and although she followed their tracks, found their beds, and even heard them close at hand, it was sometimes weeks before she saw them again.

On other occasions, however, the gorillas seemed to be looking for her. Twice they walked through her camp, at one time coming within a few yards of the hut in which she slept. But on another visit they ran off making barking noises when they saw a newly-erected tent.

Miss Osborne often carried a camera with her, but the weather was generally too misty or rainy for photography. Only twice during the first six weeks was there a day not interrupted by rain or mist, and once or twice there were heavy hailstorms, even though the volcano is not many miles from the equator.

TREASURE ISLAND CHALLENGE

A tale of shipwreck in the Southern seas

GOLD worth about £4,500,000 lies hidden in a great cliff cave of the grim Auckland Islands, some 300 miles south of New Zealand. Many attempts have been made to find it but misfortune has dogged all of them, and the latest chapter in the story has been told by six shipwrecked treasure-hunters who, after harrowing experiences, have been recovering in Darwin Hospital, in Australia's Northern Territory.

The gold sought by them was lost in an American clipper, the *General Grant*, which came to a strange end in 1866 in the uninhabited Auckland Islands. Survivors said that stormy seas swept the vessel right into a huge cavern, where she went fast aground and was broken up by mountainous waves which came thundering in.

Many attempts to recover the gold have since been made, the first being in 1869, when some men went out to the Aucklands in a tug, but were beaten back from the islands by bad weather.

NEVER SEEN AGAIN

In the following year another party went out in a schooner, taking a diver with them. On reaching the islands, the captain and six men set out in a boat to locate the wreck, but their boat was presumably swamped, for they were never seen again.

The schooner went back to New Zealand, made up her crew, and returned to the Aucklands. But again all attempts to find the treasure cave were unsuccessful.

In 1877 another expedition, with one of the *General Grant*'s survivors as guide, claimed that they had discovered the wreck, but that bad weather had thwarted all their

efforts to locate the treasure in her holds.

More recent expeditions have been similarly baffled in their search, either by bad weather or through being unable to find the cave.

The latest expedition sailed from Britain some time ago in a little ship appropriately named the *Gold Seeker*. All went well until the ship stopped off Portuguese Timor, where a party of six went ashore to shoot game for provisions.

While they were gone the *Gold Seeker* was wrecked, and after spending five days on a wild and lonely shore they decided to try to get back to civilisation in one of the boats which had been saved from the wreck. In this small open boat they were carried by winds and currents far out into the Timor Sea.

For ten days they sailed on, tortured by thirst and hunger, until at last they saw a beacon light flashing. Thankfully they made their way towards it, and although their

boat was smashed on the rocks, they did manage to get ashore.

Though they did not know it, they had landed on Cape Fourcroy, an islet on the south-west tip of Bathurst Island. But their troubles were by no means over, for they found that the light was an automatic warning for ships and unattended. There was no one to help them, and they wandered about for three days before realising that they were on an island. Then they had the idea of extinguishing the light, in the hope of attracting attention.

In sorry plight after their ordeal, near starvation and suffering from exhaustion and sunstroke, they were at last rescued and taken by naval tug to hospital in Darwin.

And in the depths of a distant cavern the *General Grant*'s gold still lies undisturbed.

UNDER THE BRIDGE

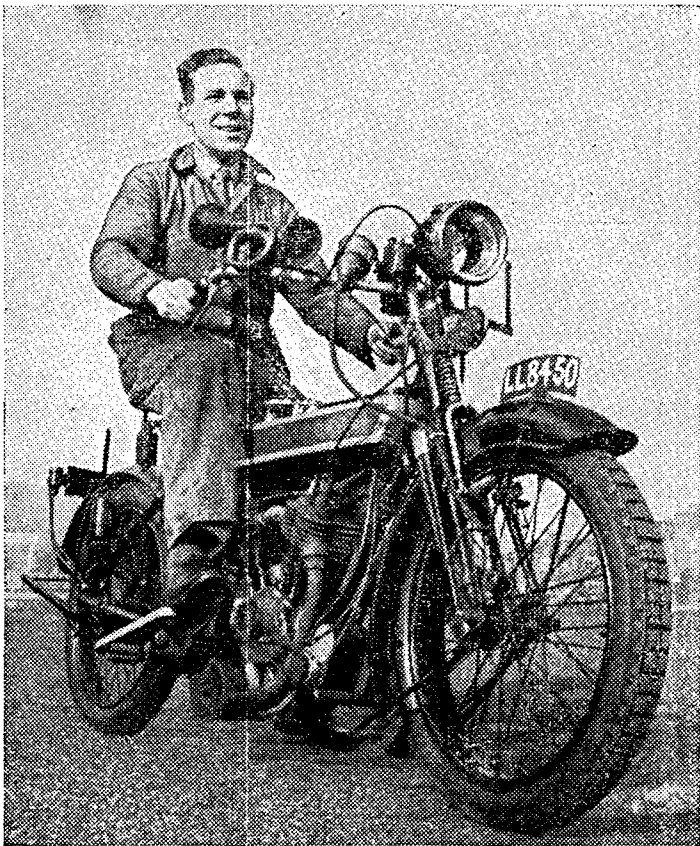
The world's first permanent national film theatre is being built under the most southerly arch of London's Waterloo Bridge.

The new theatre will replace the temporary one close by, which was built for the 1951 Festival of Britain. It will seat 500, and is due to be opened in the late summer.

Smiles on the steps

Members of the Ulster Girls Choir, now on a concert tour in aid of the N.S.P.C.C., pause for a souvenir snap on the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral during a London visit.





Still going strong

Mr. David Simpson of Ruislip, Middlesex, is emigrating to Canada and proposes to do the last 3000 miles of the trip—Montreal to Vancouver—on a vintage motorcycle built in 1912. The machine was found on a scrapheap but the only replacements needed were tyres.

BUDGET TOPICS

By the CN Political Correspondent

THE coming Budget has been talked about more than most in modern times. Indeed, discussion about it has been almost unbroken since January, and is likely to continue at least until the summer holidays. It can, indeed, be compared to a great liner ploughing through the sea, pushing out waves before it and leaving a great wake of foamy commotion behind.

Why does the 1957 Budget seem more important than previous ones? Perhaps the main reason is the expectation that it will at least point the way for a cut in taxes. Other reasons are that it will be the first since the Suez campaign of last year; the first since Mr. Macmillan succeeded Sir Anthony Eden as Premier; the first, also, to be presented by Mr. Thorneycroft as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

THE EXCHEQUER

Where, it may be asked, does this word "Exchequer" come from? From the game of chess. The other name for chess is chequers, and in the Middle Ages officials used a chess or chequers board for making their accounts. The Exchequer (nowadays called the Treasury) was originally the department which managed the Royal accounts.

That was when the Sovereign—the Crown—had charge of the financial business of the State, long before the Commons emerged to take control and explain its stewardship to Parliament in annual Budgets.

As for Budget, the word is derived from the Latin *bulga* and the French *boulette*, meaning bag or sack. (At one time a leather bag was used to carry confidential documents.)

The modern meaning, of course, is not connected with a bag, but is used to describe the proposals which the Chancellor puts to the Commons on Budget Day.

For about three weeks before the Budget the Chancellor "goes into retreat" to work out these proposals. Then, on Budget Day, we see him leaving for the Commons carrying not a bag, but an old red dispatch-box which belonged to Mr. Gladstone, the Victorian Liberal Premier.

Most modern Prime Ministers—including Mr. Macmillan, but not Sir Anthony Eden—passed through the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer first.

DOWNING STREET NEIGHBOURS

The office of Chancellor is older than the Foreign Secretaryship, which is sometimes regarded as the most senior post after the Premiership. Indeed, the Chancellor's residence at No. 11 Downing Street is next door to the Premier's at No. 10, and there is a connecting passage.

When Mr. (afterwards Earl) Baldwin was Premier he appointed the late Viscount Simon as Chancellor. Lord Simon, a lawyer, modestly remarked that he had no special knowledge of national finance. Mr. Baldwin replied: "Not a bad qualification to start with!"

Vive la Reine!

A gay and affectionate welcome awaits the Queen and Prince Philip at Paris, where they are due to arrive next Monday for a four-day tour.

No effort or expense has been spared by the French authorities to make it a dazzling royal occasion. One of its many highlights will be the visit, on Tuesday, to the famous Château de Versailles, where there will be a banquet in the historic Hall of Mirrors, followed by a play in the Louis XIV theatre. That evening the Queen and the Prince will cruise on the Seine amid illuminations and broadcast music.

Modern French industry will be shown to them at the celebrated Renault motor-car works at Flins, near Paris, and at factories in Lille and Tourcoing. The Prince is also to see an atomic centre.

Among the many gifts which are to be presented to the Queen is a beautiful clock. For Prince Charles there is to be a working model of the Paris underground railway (the Métro), and for Princess Anne, ten dolls.

Yorkshire's huge white horse

It is almost certain that the White Horse of Kilburn, cut in the Hambleton Hills near Thirsk, will be restored this year.

Over 300 feet long, 228 feet high, and with an eye big enough for 20 people to sit on, the Kilburn Horse has been a great landmark in the Vale of York for a whole century. It was made in 1857, and is said to have been paid for by a villager who had made a fortune in London.

But it now has a drab, muddy appearance, and has also been showing a tendency to slip down the hillside. However, Helmsley District Officer for the Forestry Commission, which has a long lease on the land, says that the horse's downhill path has been halted by hundreds of wooden pegs driven into the lower edges. Reinforced with loose stones, the pegs have prevented further erosion.

What it needs now is to be put in good trim.

Rescue dogs for Norway

Norway has started training dogs to help in avalanche rescue work. The idea, used for many years in Switzerland and Austria, is new in Norway.

Most of the dogs in the scheme, which is run by the Kennel Club of Norway, are Alsations, many of them police dogs.

It is claimed that, after training, which can take up to four years, each dog is as effective in rescue work as a team of 50 men.

Kare P. Skallstad, who has been working for many years to get the plan accepted, will be in charge. His own dog, Heidi, who helped in 50 mountain rescues, died only a few weeks ago.

News from Everywhere

A scheme has been planned for fencing off parts of the New Forest to prevent the ponies and cattle straying onto the roads.

Leicester University College has been granted full university status.

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST TYRES

Tyres over seven feet high, the biggest ever produced in this country, are now being made by Dunlops. Each contains 300 miles of nylon cord.

The Royal Humane Society's Testimonial on parchment was recently presented to William Chivers, aged 15, at Wick Road School, Bristol, for saving a four-year-old boy from drowning.

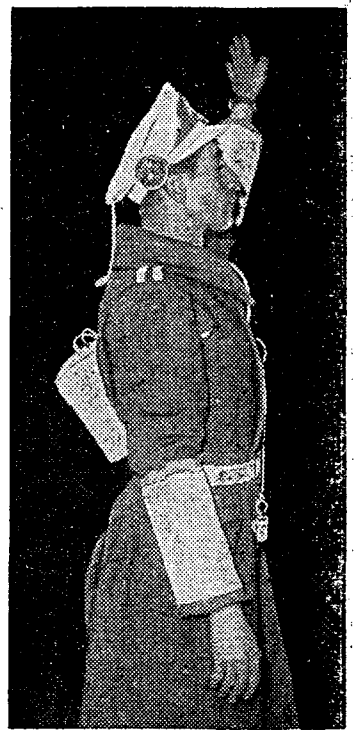
A search for oil is to be started this summer under three film studios in Hollywood.

By 1960 British European Airways hope to be running a helicopter service to Paris.

During the period 1948 to 1955 the British authors most frequently translated into foreign languages were Dickens, Shakespeare, R. L. Stevenson, A. J. Cronin, and Agatha Christie.

CORRECTION

In a recent issue, Queen Victoria was referred to as an English sovereign. As a Scots reader points out, we should have stated "British sovereign."



Illuminated policeman

To make night-time traffic duty safer for policemen in Tehran, capital of Persia, they wear flashing lights in their caps. A battery is carried on the back.

To save labour, automatic remote control is to be tried out on certain branch line level-crossings.



Meet Hodgson's Flying Squirrel

This attractive creature of the trees, now at Regent's Park, is from Nepal and is known as Hodgson's Flying Squirrel. By means of an extension of the skin from the sides to the limbs it can make great gliding leaps from branch to branch.

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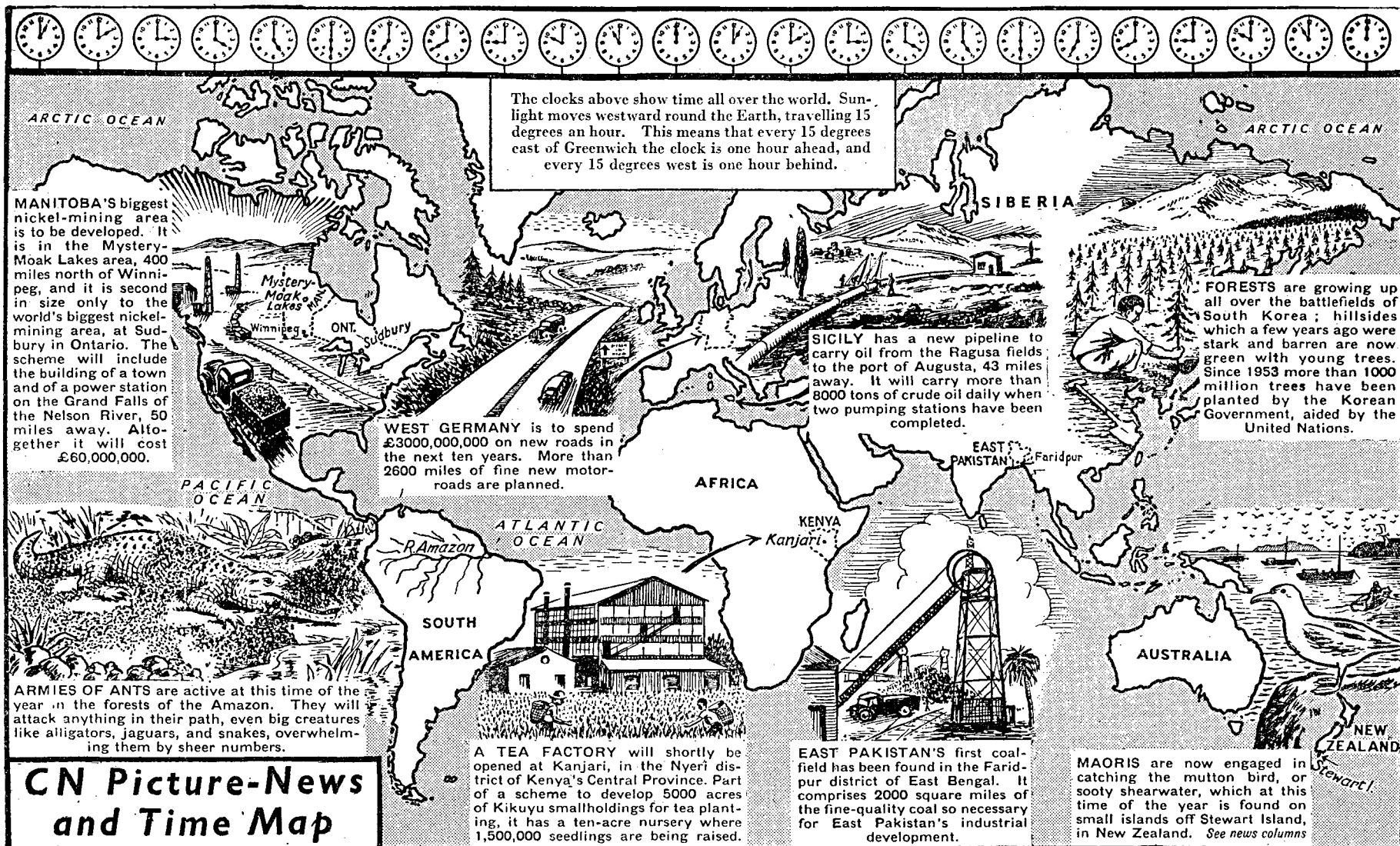
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AUSTRALIA'S FIRST YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Australia recently started its first youth orchestra of 75 boys and girls, all under 21, and they have given their first concert under the baton of their founder, Professor John Bishop of Sydney University.

Preliminary rehearsals had to be carried out in Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney, whence most of the players came, and then the whole body was brought together for the first time a few days before the inaugural concert.

The idea of this orchestra grew out of the National Music Camps which Professor Bishop initiated ten years ago.

Farewell to a yew

Bedfordshire will lose a famous old yew tree when a road improvement scheme is carried out in the village of Pavenham. The tree was planted in 1666, the year of the Great Plague of London.

The story goes that some London children were told by their parents to follow a wagon out of the city until it took them to relatives in Pavenham. They managed the journey, but never saw their parents again, and in remembrance of them planted the yew tree at one of the village's most attractive corners.

Unfortunately the corner is too sharp for modern traffic, so the cottage where the children lived will have to come down when the road is widened.

The mutton birds are returning

Just to the south of Stewart Island, New Zealand, are groups of small islands inhabited only by birds. To these islands at this time of the year the mutton birds come for a three-month stay. And as they are doing so, the Maoris leave the mainland for the annual mutton bird season.

In mid-March the Maoris of the South Island leave in fishing vessels for the small islands, going ashore in dinghies loaded with gear and stores for the season. Landing on these rocky islands is possible only in good weather, for there are no harbours and there is only one island with a sandy beach. On April 1 they begin catching the birds for their tasty, though fatty, flesh.

The scientific name for this bird is sooty shearwater.

During the season approximately 250,000 mutton birds are caught, being cleaned and stored in tins and barrels. By the end of May, with the season ended and all packing done, the Maoris have left for the mainland, and the mutton birds have gone. For another nine months the islands will know only the songs and cries of the resident birds, and not until March comes round again will mutton birds be heard.

Where they go, no one is sure. The Maoris believe, as did their forefathers, that for nine months of the year the birds roam the ocean. It certainly seems that the birds have had a long time in flight, for when they reach the islands they fall in their thousands exhausted in the dense bush.

See World Map

Invisible ray on guard

Numerous accidents have been caused in Burton-on-Trent by tall vehicles trying to pass under a bridge which is only nine feet high. Now an invisible ray has been installed which will help to prevent such accidents, and damage to vehicles and bridge.

If a vehicle more than nine feet high approaches the bridge, the beam is broken and a large sign lights up with the words: Stop, you can't pass under bridge. Then a red light goes on and a hooter sounds.

Sculpture in concrete

An impressive concrete sculpture now adorns the exterior of a new church just outside Salisbury.

The work of a Kensington sculptor, Miss Kate Parbury, it is a relief measuring 17 feet by 15, and portrays the Risen Christ. An angel sits at the head of the empty tomb, another is rolling away the stone, and choirs of angels are depicted above.

The church, St. Michael and All Angels, is to serve a new housing estate and will be dedicated in June.

HOLIDAY FUN IN TOWN

Leslie Daiken's London Pleasures for Young People (Thames and Hudson, 5s.) tells in the most attractive and lively photographs all about fun in the big city.

He directs us to the playgrounds and shows, the parks, model railways, and where to find archery, roller skating, fishing, bathing, model or aircraft-flying-going on. We are also shown trips on Regent's Canal and round the Docks, where to dance round a maypole, and where to find a Thames-side beach. The Zoo, Hampton Court, and the museums are there, too.

Not only young Londoners, but boys and girls visiting the Capital will find this book the kind of guide which makes you say "Let's go."

ANTARCTICA IN LONDON

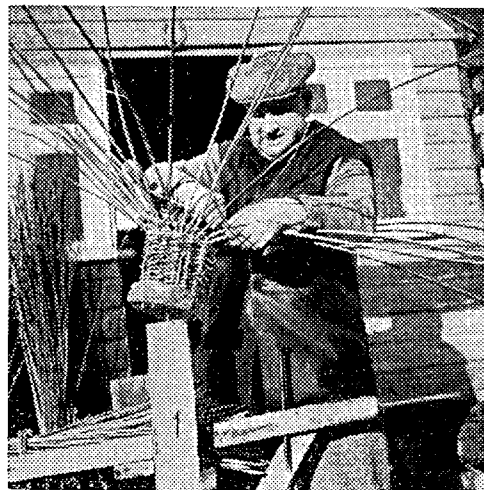
The story of British exploration and research in Antarctica is told in photographs and models at an exhibition now open at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington.

Based chiefly on the work of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, the exhibition shows that the Far South is not all snow and ice. Warm, solid huts, good food, and facilities for hobbies make the life of explorers far easier than in the days of Shackleton and Scott. The figures of these two great men have been lent from Madame Tussaud's to show the kind of clothing they used half a century ago.

Most of the equipment on show is that used for surveying and weather observations. The exhibition is open until June 2.

New season's lobster pots

The familiar lobster pot of the seaside is only a form of the primitive fish-trap used by man before the dawn of history. The highly skilled craft of making it is still traditional on the South Coast, and here Mr. Alan Stride of Mudeford, near Christchurch, weaves withies, or willow branches, to make a new pot for the coming lobster season.



ERNEST THOMSON WRITES ABOUT RADIO AND TELEVISION PERSONALITIES AND PROGRAMMES

Jennings tops the poll again

NOT merely a tower, but a skyscraper of postcards has been filling the office of David Davies, of Children's Hour, as a result of Request Week. Once again Anthony Buckridge's Jennings At School has topped the poll, with The Wind in the Willows and Toy-town high up in the list, as usual.

"David" is specially pleased that this year's response has far exceeded that of 1956, though it must be remembered that the printing strike a year ago may have been partly responsible for fewer cards. Anyway, it does look as if Sound Radio Children's Hour is holding its own against the competition of television.

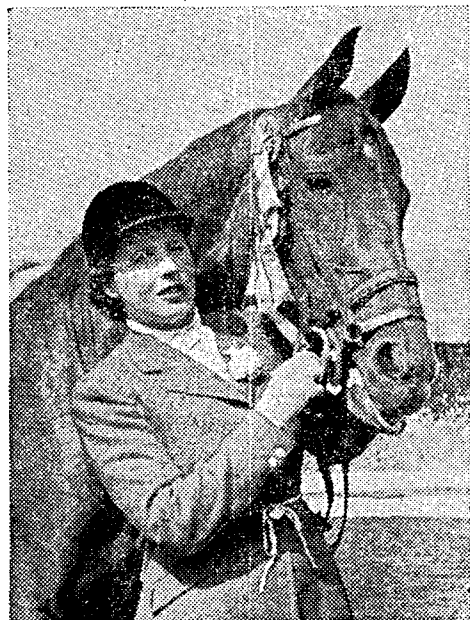
Listening ages range between four and 18, but a lot of cards were also received from grown-ups. Only children's cards were counted, however, and—including all the Regions—they totalled nearly 30,000.

ANOTHER Anthony Buckridge character high in young viewers' estimation is Rex Milligan. His first series for BBC Children's TV was such a success a year ago that it is being shown again in tele-recorded form, starting on Friday.

It is the story of rivalry between Sheldrake Grammar School and the more modern technical school.

Pat Smythe shows how to do it

PAT SMYTHE, one of the world's leading horsewomen, will try something new in BBC Children's TV on Friday. With one of the latest radio microphones and transmitters strapped to her body, she will take some of her famous horses over the fences while telling viewers how she does it.



Pat Smythe with Prince Hal

This will be the climax to a TV visit to Pat Smythe's Gloucestershire home at Miserden, where the show jumpers have just started their schooling for the season after a winter rest. Unlike many horsewomen, Pat Smythe trains her own jumpers, which helps to explain her success with her famous mounts.

Young horses need patient handling, as Pat Smythe will explain as she shows how, trained to complete obedience, they take their first jumps.

UNDER THE GROUND, UNDER THE SEA, AND INTO THE AIR

EVERY viewer can be an armchair adventurer with the new BBC Television series called Now. It starts this Wednesday evening. The exploits are to include a demonstration of escape methods from a submarine and a bale-out from an Army plane in which the parachutist will use the new miniature radio camera. For bird's-eye views on other excursions the BBC is chartering a B.E.A. helicopter.

Peter Webber, who shares pro-



Bob Danvers-Walker

duction with Ray Lakeland, told me that Now is an exciting extension of Saturday Night Out. "We want to take viewers to places and give them experiences they might never otherwise enjoy," he said.

Two Miles Under, which begins the weekly series this Wednesday, will bring pictures of miners at work in the Dragonby Pit near Scunthorpe. Cameras, microphones, lights and mobile control-room are being taken along two miles of tunnel to the working face, where we shall see the rock being bored for blasting and the ore clawed and carried away by the latest machinery. Afterwards a visit will be paid to the Appleby-Frodingham works some miles away, where the ore is turned into iron, and at the Queen Anne blast furnace a great stream of molten metal will be seen gushing out.

Bob Danvers-Walker, who is to be stunt man in Now, will be in protective clothing as he gives his commentary.

Next week it will be Danvers-Walker again, in submarine escape gear, who will float to the surface of a 100-foot test tank at the

Dolphin Navy School, watched by an underwater TV camera. Next August, armed with a TV camera, he will parachute jump from a Beverley troop-carrier in a programme about Army training, the last of three dealing with the Services. The R.A.F. will be covered on May 15 and the Navy in mid-July. It is hoped to have a TV camera on a plane as it lands on an aircraft carrier.

Here are more details of Now programmes given to me by Peter Webber. On April 17 viewers will be taken to Liverpool for the start of the maiden voyage of the Empress of England, and a week later to a pothole expedition 900 feet below ground in Derbyshire. First TV helicopter trip will be down the Thames from Westminster on May 1.

At the end of May viewers will travel on the little Tanylllyn Light Railway in North Wales. Later there will be yacht racing in the Solent, an underwater descent in the Mediterranean on Eurovision, and a take-off view of a Viscount 800 leaving Nice, with subsequent pictures of its arrival in London.

Indians who were attacked by the White Man

IN most tales of Red Indians and cowboys it is the Indians who are supposed to cause the trouble. But there's a different twist in Lariat Boy, which Herbert Smith is producing in BBC Children's Hour on Fridays, April 5 and 12.

In this story of Arizona in the 1880s, by Alan Dixon, a peace-loving Indian tribe is attacked by a band of white hooligans. The surprise ending is brought about by the friendship of a white boy and an Indian chief's son.

Lariat Boy was first broadcast some time ago, but this is a completely new production. It includes glimpses of little known but authentic Red Indian customs.

Schoolboy explorers in Iceland

CN readers will no doubt remember the interview, published last November, with one of the 50 schoolboys of an average age of 17 who went last year on the British Schools Exploring Society expedition to Iceland. You may also have seen the thrilling film of their adventures shot by TV cameraman A. A. Englander, which was shown in a BBC Television evening programme.

Next Tuesday you can see the film again in Children's TV. The crowning moment is at the end of the Long March, in which 11 specially chosen boys went on a 16-day trek of 180 miles to the 5750-foot summit of Hofsjokull ice-cap. Mr. Englander, who did not go on the march himself, says the boys themselves filmed "an almost Tenzing moment" as they reached the top.

Napoleon escapes from his cage

TWO live parrots and a stuffed one, I hear, are being booked for Napoleon's Day Out, a new play by Michael Bond which Pharic McLaren is producing in BBC Children's TV next Tuesday.

Napoleon is a parrot whose owner leaves him in the charge of three boys, who will be played by David Hannaford, Nigel Anthony, and Christopher Worbey. Unluckily, Napoleon escapes—like his great namesake from Elba—so

Visit to Paris

WHETHER or not you have been to Paris, you will want to see two fascinating television broadcasts from the French capital this week in preparation for the State visit of the Queen and Prince Philip.

This Thursday night Michael Henderson will be our guide round the Elysée Palace, home of the French President, where the Royal visitors are to stay. Viewers will see the Banqueting Hall, setting for the Presidential Dinner on April 8, and some of the Royal Apartments.

Nearly every Paris visitor goes to the lovely Palace of Versailles, but next Saturday afternoon viewers will see more than is covered by the usual tour. This time, with Richard Dimbleby as commentator, the cameras will be taken into the Royal apartments, which have been restored to the condition they were in at the time of Marie Antoinette.

Viewers will also see the theatre, which has just been renovated and is being opened for the first time since its glorious days in the reign of Louis XVI. And, of course, a call will be paid to the famous Hall of Mirrors.

Prince Philip's lecture

As the CN mentioned last week, more than 2000 boys and girls from secondary schools in London and the Home Counties were invited this Wednesday to the Royal Festival Hall for Prince Philip's lecture on his recent Commonwealth tour. The lecture is being recorded, and extracts will be broadcast by the BBC in Current Affairs for Schools at 11.20 a.m. in the Home Service on Friday.



David Hannaford

the boys substitute a stuffed one while searching for the missing bird.

This leads to terrible misunderstandings when their parents return, but how it comes about that the stuffed bird is joined by three living ones is part of the plot which it would be a pity to disclose now.

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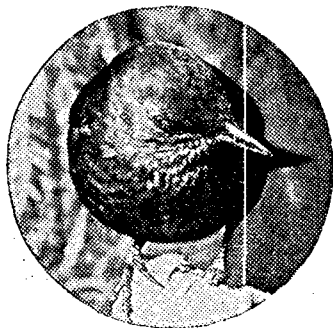
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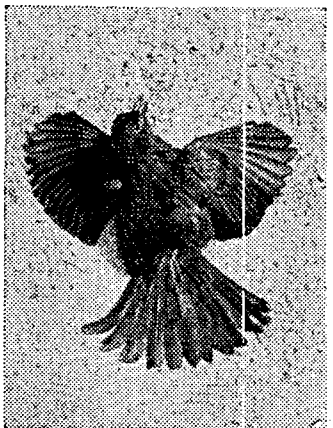
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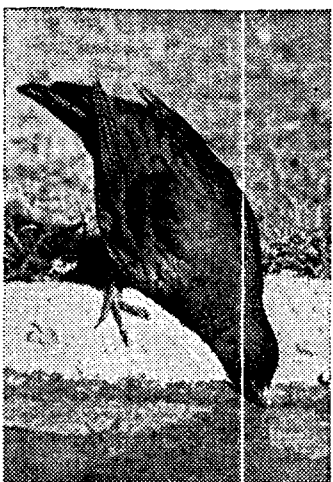
O BLACKBIRD, WHAT A BOY YOU ARE!



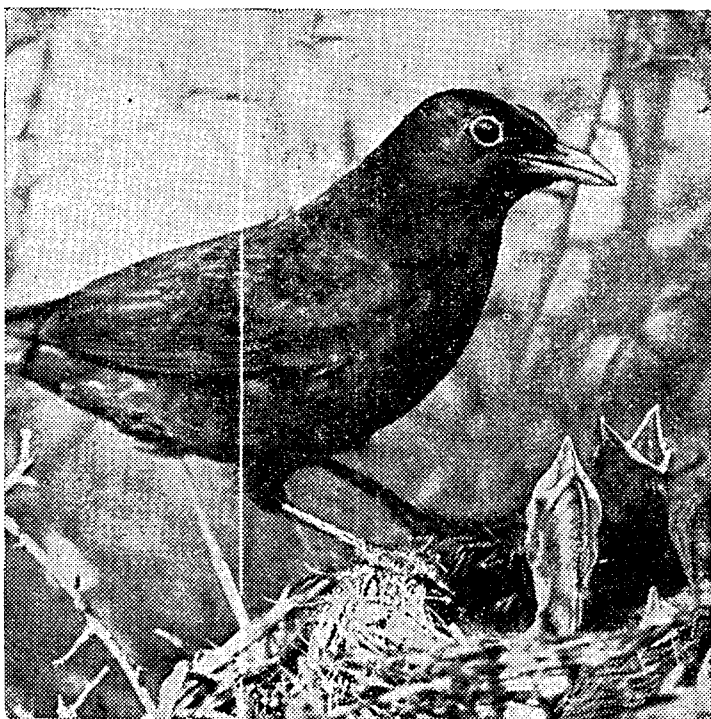
A hen blackbird with mottled breast, not unlike the thrush



A young blackbird taking the sun on a warm spring day



Down to the waters to drink



Father Blackbird takes a turn at the nest

Now is the time of the singing birds, and of all the birds that swell the springtime chorus none sings more melodiously than the blackbird, the subject of an article here by one of our nature correspondents.

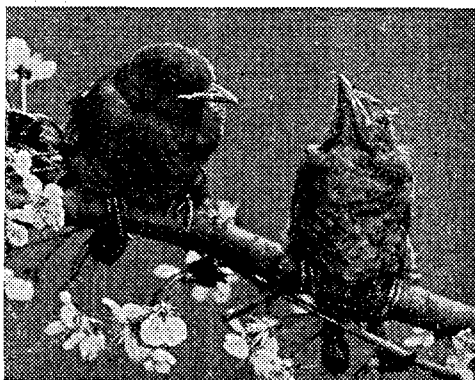
Often heard quite early in the year, the blackbird's song is at its brightest and best from March to mid-June; and although he is among the chief raiders of our gardens and orchards, this seems but small toll to pay for our delight in his rich, mellow voice—that voice to which the Manx poet, T. E. Brown, paid lyrical tribute in his *Vespers*:

*O Blackbird, what a boy you are!
How you do go it!
Blowing your bugle to that one sweet star;
How you do blow it!
And does she hear you, blackbird boy, so far?
Or is it wasted breath?
Good Lord! she is so bright
Tonight!
The blackbird saith.*

THE blackbird is one of the commonest birds in Britain, as familiar to most of us as the robin, and even more conspicuous, because of the glossy black plumage of the cock bird and its contrasting bright yellow bill and eye-lids. The hen is sooty brown on the upper parts; her lighter underparts being spotted, the light throat streaked with dark markings and her bill black.

In mid-February I listen with delight to the first blackbird song. Gradually the number of singers increases, though a biting northerly wind will silence them. But the moment the weather is milder, there is a greater outburst, and during the first spring days nearly every cock bird is in full voice, singing one of the loveliest of all bird songs.

An old English name for the blackbird was Merle, and the French still use it. They took the word from the Latin "merula" which means the deserving one,

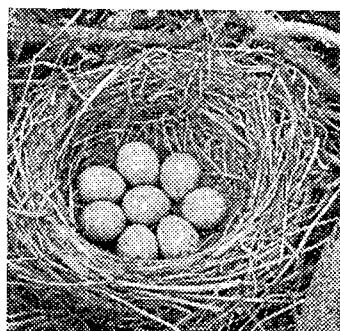


When the blossom's on the bough

and was given because he sings so sweetly and deserves our praise.

Its song is second perhaps to that of the nightingale, but the delight it gives is far more widespread, for not only does it serenade us everywhere in the countryside, the lovely flute-like notes with curious low warblings come from all the gardens and parks of our great towns. But the greatest thrill of all is to be in a wood when the dawn chorus breaks out: cock blackbirds dominate the choir, each in his own nesting territory.

Three broods are reared in a year, and occasionally a fourth; a nest in one of my apple trees was re-lined after the second family fledged and used for the third. Jays and magpies raid blackbirds' nests built in bushes near my



A clutch of eight

house, carrying off chicks or eating eggs, despite the frantic cries of the parents and the bold manner in which they fly at raiders.

I once watched a hen blackbird shrieking its chick-chick-chick alarm note as it swooped on a cat, striking it two or three times, so that the cat was glad to run away.

On another occasion, in a village garden, I saw a tawny owl being mobbed by half a dozen screaming birds. As they passed over the lawn one blackbird got just ahead of the owl, which swerved sideways and with a lightning thrust seized its victim and carried it off.

Natural enemies keep the numbers of blackbirds down, otherwise they would be a far greater nuisance to the fruit-growers. They love soft fruits—strawberries, cherries, raspberries, and ripe gooseberries—but do less damage to apples and pears than they are said to do. My experience is that these birds feed almost entirely upon the windfalls.

When feeding, blackbirds procure any worms protruding from their burrows on the dewy lawn; but they also seize dead leaves and other material in the bill, toss it aside, and pounce on the worms and insects thus uncovered. In autumn and winter rose hips and haws and many kinds of berries are eaten. In hard frost the blackbirds resort to thick hedge bottoms and dense bushes, spending the daylight hours tossing aside dead material in their search for insects underneath.

At twilight, the chick-chick-chick—less excited in its tone than when used as an alarm note—is heard on every side in autumn and winter, the preliminary to going to roost in some dense cover, the last chicking notes dying away as darkness falls.

H. R. TUTT



Full voice at eventide when other birds have ceased their song



Food for the family



Mother Blackbird with hungry mouths to feed

Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House
Whitefriars . London . EC4
APRIL 6 1957

PLAYING FOR SAFETY

WE heartily commend a new game which can be obtained by schools from road safety committees all over the country. A quarter of a million copies of it are being issued by the Dunlop Rubber Company in co-operation with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

Designed by an Epsom map-maker, Mr. Paul Stanley, the game is called Road Safety Town Plan, its purpose being to stress the vital importance of road safety rules. It succeeds in doing this in a most interesting and instructive way.

On a panel beside a street plan are 24 small pictures showing the most common causes of road accidents to children. These have to be cut out and fitted into special spaces on the plan, which have appropriate warnings beside them. There are also various road signs which have to be pasted in their correct frames.

Admirable as a cut-out game for younger children, it is also useful for group study in the classroom. The whole idea is an excellent one, reflecting great credit on everybody concerned with its production.

The Editor's Table

PRIMITIVE ART

FROM the other side of the Atlantic comes news of an astonishing development in art. There has been a public sale of "paintings" by Betsy, a chimpanzee in Baltimore Zoo, and one of them is said to have fetched as much as 50 dollars.

Artistic Betsy's methods are highly original. A sheet of wet paper daubed with various coloured paints is stretched out in front of her. Then, chiefly with her fingers but on occasion with her elbows and even her tongue, Betsy spreads the paint to complete her "masterpiece."

Primitive art indeed!

Think on These Things

OUR happiness is found in doing God's will. So we pray: "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

The trouble with most of us is that we put ourselves at the centre of things, and look on the world and other people from the point of view of self. We have to learn that God must be put in the centre. We must give Him the first place or we shall find that everything is out of focus.

We have the perfect example of Jesus. He always did the will of His heavenly Father. In the face of the worst men could do He could still pray: "Thy will be done." It is through Jesus that we learn to do God's will.

So often when we say "Thy will be done" we do so with an air of resignation. But that is a mistake. God's will is always the best for us—in His will is our peace. O. R. C.

JUST AN IDEA

As Emerson wrote: I am a great believer in luck. The harder I work the more of it I seem to have.

Making the best of it

IT has been said that life is what we make it, and it is certainly true that if we choose to do so we can always find some good even in misfortune. We remember that years ago Dame Ethel Smyth told an audience, "I sprained my ankle in St. James's Street the other day." Then she went on, smiling. "That is how I learned to spell ankle."

Fishing is so restful



Oliver Grimm has already appeared in eight films in Germany although he is still only eight years old. Now he has a Hollywood contract and is staying in London to improve his English. He finds a little fishing makes a pleasant rest from his labours.

APRIL'S COMING UP THE HILL

NOW the noisy winds are still; April's coming up the hill! All the spring is in her train, Led by shining ranks of rain; Pit, pat, patter, clatter, Sudden sun and clatter patter! All things ready with a will, April's coming up the hill!

Mary Mapes Dodge

THEY SAY . . .

ENGLISH girls are far and away the best dressed, the most self-reliant, and the prettiest in Europe.

The Bishop of Willesden

IF it rains over the weekend I have a mail on Monday like nobody's business. The people cannot go out into their gardens to dig, so they complain against the weather by writing to their Member of Parliament telling him what they think of the Government.

Mr. Maurice Orbach, M.P.

WE know that this country has the determination, the serenity, the skill, the know-how, and the ingenuity to maintain its position in the world.

Rt. Hon. Charles Hill, M.P.

QUIZ CORNER

1. In what mountain range and in what country is Mount Everest?
2. What is a wolverine?
3. What are the Low Countries?
4. Why is Sandringham so well known?
5. What trimming is often used on official robes and on the cap worn with coronets?
6. Why are certain days called Bank Holidays?

Answers on page 12

Kept in a cool place

TINS of food taken to the Antarctic 46 years ago by Captain Robert Scott were recently sampled by his famous son, Peter Scott the naturalist.

Found last year by some American explorers, the food was being examined at the Tin Research Institute at Perivale, Middlesex.

One of the tins was labelled Keep in a cool place. Never can any instructions have been more faithfully carried out.

Thirty Years Ago

From The Children's Newspaper, April 9, 1927

OUR rulers have come to the clear decision that the dangers of the streets must be reduced. Meantime a thousand people are being killed every year in London alone.

The Ministry of Transport has issued a draft of a Bill asking for the opinion of the public on some of the most important questions—whether there should be an absolute speed limit, and if so, what it should be; whether, if there is a speed limit, people should be excused for exceeding it when they can show that their speed was not excessive in the circumstances; whether, if there is no speed limit, there should be rules providing comparatively light penalties for careless driving and heavy penalties for dangerous driving.

Out and About

THE quiet river curved past its green banks and then there was a stretch of flat shore on one side. In an almost straight line there stood four tall, graceful dove-grey birds like alert sentries on spindly greenish legs.

Suddenly one of them bent its neck, and the black-crested head with its long, pointed beak darted down at the water, made a jerk, and came up again with a fish which quickly disappeared. Frog or water-vole would have been as readily dealt with; nor would a large rat, if careless enough to pass close to a heron, be likely to escape.

The herons are an attractive part of the picture in many places, sometimes even where a river runs by a town, if the water is not polluted. Soon they will be in their busiest time of hunting for food as the first broods of young are reared. The eggs were laid last month, in some places in February.

UNTIDY NESTS

If there is a heronry near, you will notice the loud call, like a harsh drawn-out cry of "Frank." Then it will be easy to recognise also the big nests of twigs in fair-sized trees. They are twice as big as the nests in a rookery and even more untidy.

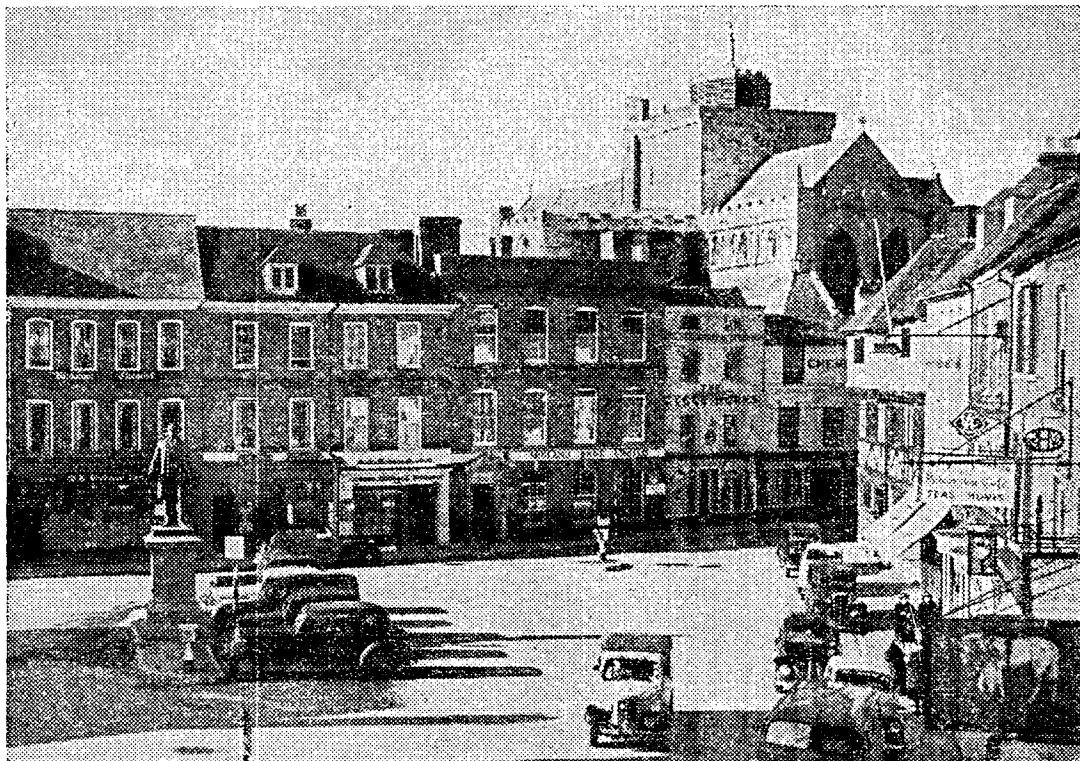
The biggest heronry in Britain is in a new nature reserve at High Halstow in Kent, under the Nature Conservancy by arrangement with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds who own it. High Halstow is north-east of Rochester, not far from the Medway estuary. Here, a ridge of higher ground overlooks marshes and creeks.

This bit of geography helps to explain why the new reserve is also a famous breeding place for many ducks. Among them is the large and handsome shelduck, common on several parts of our coast, but especially right up the east side, where all available rabbit holes have been used by them for nesting as far back as people can remember.

SHORTAGE OF BURROWS

More of them will have to use other places as the burrows are not being renewed where rabbits have died out. This is why it seems very interesting that the High Halstow nature reserve is claimed to be the only place in southern England where shelduck breed in the open instead of in burrows.

One cannot help wondering if this is true. Perhaps the great army of amateur naturalists can find other places, and elsewhere than in the south. The shelduck lay their eggs in May, in a nest of grass (sometimes also moss), lined with downy feathers. There may be as many as ten pale cream eggs. Evidence of this bird's nesting habits in the absence of rabbit burrows would be worth sending to The Nature Conservancy or the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. C. D. D.



OUR HOMELAND

The square at Romsey, Hampshire, which is celebrating the granting of its charter 350 years ago, and on Saturday will welcome the Queen and Prince Philip

The Children's Newspaper, April 6, 1957

IT HAPPENED THIS WEEK—APRIL 6, 1899

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S WALL DISCOVERED

BAGHDAD—The Great Wall of Babylon, built by King Nebuchadnezzar II more than 2500 years ago, has been discovered. After lying hidden under sand and rubble for centuries, this wonder of the ancient world is now being brought to light.

The discovery was made by a team of workers under the supervision of the noted German archaeologist, Robert Koldewey. It confirms his claim, made more than a year ago, that the remains of King Nebuchadnezzar's building would be found at the mound of El Kasr—in the Euphrates

In order that no one might break through by way of the moat, I heaped up a heap of earth beside it, and surrounded it with quay walls of brick. This bastion I strengthened cunningly, and of the city of Babylon I made a fortress."

It is believed that the space between the walls was filled with earth up to the rim of the outer bastion, and formed a path wide enough for four horses abreast. Guards patrolled the walls, and every 160 feet there were watch-towers.

An interesting fact has come to light during Koldewey's excavations. In ancient times builders usually used sun-baked bricks which wind and weather soon ate away. But Nebuchadnezzar used properly fired bricks, especially in his fortifications. These bricks were much harder and could face up to the weather, although many of these bricks were taken away by later inhabitants on the Euphrates to build their own homes.

EXCITING SECRETS

Koldewey is now on the verge of discovering the exciting secrets which this magnificent city has kept for so many centuries. During his reign of 42 years Nebuchadnezzar established himself as one of the greatest builders of ancient times. It was he who began the reconstruction of Babylon—capital of his extending empire—on a monumental scale.

Its palaces and temples were great pyramidal structures, rising in a succession of terraces. One of the *ziggurats* (temple towers) was so formidable that it became known in legend as the "Tower of Babel."

The outer walls of the great buildings shone with glazed bricks and tiles on which were pictures of Babylon's glorious and warlike history.

The King also built the first stone bridge over the Euphrates and dug vast canals to irrigate his country. But his most famous work was the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

They are said to have been built to please his wife, Amytis. She came from Persia and disliked the flat landscape of Babylon, so the King raised for her a mountain of gardens in terraces supported on tiers of arches.

Russia angers Finland

HELSINKI—Russia's attempt to absorb Finland and cancel the Finnish Constitution—granted by Tsar Alexander I in 1809—has aroused strong resentment among the Finns.

A deputation of 500 Finns went to St. Petersburg, carrying a petition for Finnish rights signed by 563,000 people. Tsar Nicholas II has refused to accept the petition.

New nature centre for Shropshire

The Council for the Promotion of Field Studies is shortly to open a new centre at Preston Montford in the country of A. E. Housman's A Shropshire Lad.

Preston Montford is by the River Severn, near Shrewsbury, and salmon come up under Montford Bridge to spawn in the Welsh tributaries.

Shropshire has many interesting bird-haunts, with Buzzards hunting the heathery slopes where grouse live on the great hill called the Long Mynd. Here woodlarks sing in summer. Grebes are found on many local waters, which are also visited by migratory black terns in autumn and by geese and other wildfowl in winter. White-fronted geese have their winter haunts in the Severn meadows near the Montgomeryshire border.

MANY INTERESTING INSECTS

Fenn's Moss is a well-known Shropshire heathland, with many interesting insects, like the large heath butterfly. Shropshire wild flowers include some interesting orchids, like the green-leaved helleborine and the dwarf purple.

This is the sixth field-study centre to be established in England and Wales, and many teachers are expected to go here for rural studies. Among the farm animals they may see are the dark-faced, hornless Shropshire Down breed of sheep.

Among Shropshire nature haunts are Stoke Woods, near Stokesay church; Hamway Common, near Ludlow, where the pied flycatcher nests; and Breidden Hill, on the Montgomeryshire border, where the rock-cinquefoil and other rare flowers grow.

NEW CARD FOR BOYS' BRIGADE

The 73rd Birmingham Company of the Boys' Brigade are proud of 17-year-old Dennis Brown. This year's B.B. membership card is his design, selected from about 150 entries in a nation-wide competition. A printed copy is to be issued to every member of the Boys' Brigade at home and overseas, about 125,000 in all.

NEW FILMS

FUN BEHIND THE SCENES



Donald Sinden has hypnotised himself, and Dirk Bogarde and Muriel Pavlow try to bring him round—a scene from *Doctor at Large*

DIRK BOGARDE has appeared as the young doctor Simon Sparrow in two previous films made from the books of Richard Gordon, and now he plays the same part in the very amusing new one called *Doctor at Large*. The first, *Doctor in the House*, was mostly about his training, and the second, *Doctor at Sea*, showed his adventures as a ship's doctor.

The new film takes his career a stage further, and we see him earning his living in this country, first in a hospital post, then as a "G.P." (general practitioner), and finally back at the hospital again.

CHARACTER SKETCHES

There are other people, too, whom we saw in the earlier films, including James Robertson Justice as Sir Lancelot, the roaring great man at the hospital where Simon hopes to become house surgeon. But most of the fun is provided by a great many small-part players, who give excellent little character-sketches of the people Simon meets at different stages of his career.

In a way, this is the main criticism to be made of the film: it is not a real story, in the sense of being worked out from the beginning to the end, but a series of quite separate little scenes.

There is an attempt to give it a sort of climax because Simon is really keen to become house surgeon at St. Swithin's Hospital, and at the end Sir Lancelot (after pretending to be doubtful about it) gives him the job in preference to his rival, the self-satisfied, over-confident Bingham (Michael Medwin). But what keeps us entertained from moment to moment is the gallery of amusing people we meet as Simon meets them.

THERE are many diverting little character-sketches, too, in another recent film, *The Good Companions*, but this has more of a real story of its own. This famous novel by J. B. Priestley has been filmed before; in the new version it has become almost a "musical."

It is also brought up to date. The novel was published long before the war, but the film is full of later references—for instance, there is even a mention of flying saucers.

The story is about a touring concert-party, down on its luck, which is taken in hand and helped by three newcomers: Miss Trant (Celia Johnson), who puts up some money; Inigo Jollifant (John Fraser), who writes music and plays the piano; and Jess Oakroyd (Eric Portman), who makes scenery, does odd jobs, and gives advice.

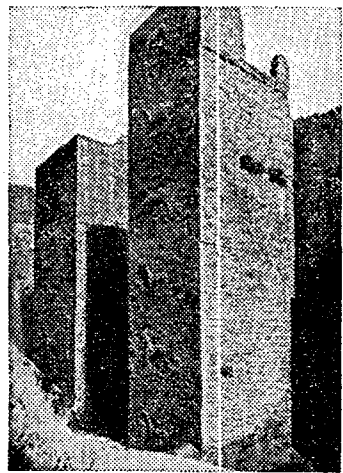
LONDON STAR

At last, of course, everything turns out well for all concerned. The little song-and-dance girl Susie Dean (Janette Scott) becomes a star in a London show, and all the other people have good luck, too.

We see and hear quite a number of the dances and songs, and one point that is rather irritating is that we are expected not to realise the fact that some of them could not possibly be shown on any stage. They are film-musical items, with dances on a huge expanse of polished floor that no stage-carpenter, even Jess Oakroyd, could ever provide. But this will not stop you from enjoying the film at the time.



Mona Washbourne, Bobby Howes, Janette Scott, and Eric Portman—some of *The Good Companions*



Towers around the walls of Babylon

estuary, 60 miles south of Baghdad—marking the site of ancient Babylon.

This claim was considered as only a wildly optimistic guess, but today it is proved that Koldewey was right.

Two weeks ago, digging on the east side of the mound of El Kasr, he came across what he was sure must be remnants of the great wall. Now he is laying bare a brick wall over 22 feet thick. Following this, he hopes to come across two other thick walls.

Already he has found along the first wall many pieces of relief carving—lion's teeth, claws, and eyes; human feet and beards and eyes; legs of a slender-boned animal, probably a gazelle; and boar's teeth.

MIGHTY FLOODS

Babylon was once the biggest city in the Middle East, greater even than Nineveh, and the wall was one of the mighty works created by Nebuchadnezzar II, who died in 562 B.C. He himself described the wall now being uncovered by Koldewey:

"I caused a mighty wall to circumscribe Babylon in the east. I dug its moats, and its escarpments. I built out of bitumen and kiln brick. At the edge of the moat I built a powerful wall as high as a hill. I gave it wide gates and set in doors of cedar-wood sheathed with copper.

"So that the enemy should not threaten the sides of Babylon, I surrounded them with mighty floods of the great sea, the waters of salt.

SPORTS SHORTS

ALTHOUGH this year's international Rugby season is over, Welsh fans will have the opportunity on Saturday of witnessing what promises to be a grand exhibition of football. At Cardiff Arms Park a "Welsh XV" is to oppose an "International XV," composed of English, Scottish, and Irish players. This special match has been arranged as the Welsh Rugby Union's contribution to the Empire Games Appeal Fund of £250,000. The Games will take place in the summer of 1958, and many of the events will be staged at the new Maindy Stadium in Cardiff.

Canada's champion



In Europe on a three-month educational tour, the Canadian shot-put and discus champion Jeanette Macdonald keeps in training at the Paddington Recreation Ground, London.

THE London five-a-side football championship is now one of the most popular events of the season. It will be held this Wednesday at Harringay Arena. Most of the well-known London clubs will take part in a series of knock-out games each lasting 12 minutes. With no throw-ins and hardly any stoppages, five-a-side football is one of the fastest and most exciting of indoor sports.

ROY SANDSTRÖM, British Olympic sprinter, may yet join many other famous athletes who have won international honours on the Rugby field. Following his return from Melbourne, fighter-pilot Sandstrom took up Rugby with the Wasps, after giving up the game in 1955 to concentrate on athletics. His speed and try-scoring soon won him R.A.F. selection. More honours may yet come the way of this young three-quarter, who played only soccer as a boy.

WHEN the present football season opened, 18-year-old Michael Turner was goalkeeper for Bridport Reserves, in Division 2 of the Dorset League. Before Christmas he had signed for Weymouth, the semi-professional Western League club, and honours quickly followed. He has represented Dorset County junior, youth, and senior teams, and recently he played for England's Youth XI against France.

Surrey for England

THE Netball Inter-County Tournament will be held on Saturday at R.A.F. Station, Norton, near Sheffield. Surrey have won the tournament for seven successive years, and are strong favourites to carry off the title again. Some idea of the strength of the Surrey team can be gathered from the fact that all of the county first team *plus* two from the second team have been chosen for the England trial to be held on the following day.

LEWIS WHITBY, 15-year-old scholar at the Hove Manor Secondary School, is already making a bid to win a place in Britain's 1960 Olympics swimming team. A schoolboy champion, he recently broke seven records in one swim at Hove. These included Sussex County and Southern Counties best times over 100 yards and 110 yards.

TEST MATCH SWEATERS WERE NOT GIVEN TO ENGLAND'S CRICKETERS IN THE EARLY DAYS (AS NOW), BUT **WALTER MEAD** (ESSEX) WHO PLAYED AGAINST AUSTRALIA IN 1899, WAS AWARDED ONE TO MARK THE OCCASION—50 YEARS LATER...

THIS WAS PART OF A TRIBUTE TO HIS LONG CRICKET SERVICE, FOR AT 82 HE WAS STILL UMPIRING CLUB AND GROUND MATCHES.

AGED 19 AT THE TIME, **C.L. TOWNSEND** (GLOUCESTERSHIRE) TOOK 121 WICKETS IN ELEVEN CONSECUTIVE MATCHES (JULY 22 TO AUG. 31, 1895), WITH AN AVERAGE OF 12.05.

Sporting Flashbacks

A.F. M'FIE DID NOT KNOW HE WAS A GOLF CHAMPION UNTIL 37 YEARS AFTER THE EVENT...

IN 1885 HE WON AN OPEN AMATEUR CONTEST ORGANISED BY THE ROYAL LIVERPOOL CLUB. THIS MEETING WAS SO SUCCESSFUL THAT IT WAS DECIDED TO MAKE IT AN ANNUAL EVENT, TO BE TERMED "THE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP."

NOT UNTIL 1922, HOWEVER, DID THE AUTHORITIES AGREE TO RECOGNISE THE ORIGINAL MEETING AS ONE OF THE SERIES — AND THE NAME OF ALLAN M'FIE WAS AT LAST PLACED AT THE HEAD OF THE LIST OF OFFICIAL CHAMPIONS.

GERRY NORTH, of Blackpool, is becoming one of England's brightest athletics prospects. Persuaded to take a serious interest in running two years ago, in preference to soccer, he recently won the English junior cross-country title, and revealed remarkable speed and stamina under trying conditions. As part of his training, Gerry covers 100 miles a week along Blackpool's sand dunes.

In the family

SINCE 1886 a member of the Street family has been groundsmen at the Rectory Field, headquarters of the Blackheath R.F.C. and scene of many Kent County cricket matches. The job should remain in the family for many more years, for when Mr. Charles Street retired the other day his son Bert took over.

SWIMMING and singing go hand-in-hand when Murray Garretty contests long-distance championships like the Australian 1650-yard free-style title which he won recently at Canberra. Garretty, who won five titles during the championship series, claims he gets bored in long races, so he sings to himself during the early stages of the race.

Spring comes to Quebec

From a Canadian correspondent

The date is sometime in April, there is a clear blue sky, and the sun is shining, but there is still snow on the ground—grubby in the city, but still sparkling white in the country.

A bus-load and several cars full of small eager boys are bowling merrily along the road leading out of Montreal. The cavalcade turns into a narrow lane, comes to a halt by a wood, and disgorges its passengers who are soon in the throes of a snowball fight.

These woods are what is called the sugar-bush. They consist of tall and slender maple trees, and to each is attached a metal bucket. From a spout wedged into the trunk above the bucket there drips the sweet sap as it begins to rise. The liquid is quite thin, and is collected and carried away to small wooden cabins, and heated in big containers until it turns into maple syrup. This can be further refined into maple sugar, and it is sold widely in both forms.

After the snowfight the boys go for a sleigh-ride through the woods to a small cabin. Here they watch the sap being heated and then poured into small wooden troughs filled with clean, smooth snow. A big can, full of hot maple syrup, is then poured on to the snow, where it immediately solidifies. Then the boys can scoop it up on wooden sticks and eat it.

So comes one of the signs of spring to Quebec, and it will not be long before the snow has all melted away. Then the buds will begin to peep out, and tulips and daffodils and all the other spring flowers will burst forth.

NAPOLEON'S TREES

Along the highways of Bavaria are thousands of trees said to have been planted by order of Napoleon to provide shade for his troops on the march. Now, after a century and a half, they are to be cut down as the authorities say they have become a danger to traffic.

FOUNDERS OF A NATION—new picture-version of the Pilgrim Fathers' story (5)



During their first winter the Pilgrims suffered terrible hardships. Exposure to the cold and lack of food caused sickness among them, and at one time there were only six or seven persons who were well, and who devoted themselves tirelessly to caring for the invalids. In the first six months nearly half the settlers died, including the first Governor, John Carver. William Bradford was elected, and remained the Pilgrims' beloved leader for many years.



The survivors' health improved with the coming of spring. Then an Indian named Squanto, who had learned English from visiting fishermen, came among them. He brought along a sachem (chief) called Massassowit with whom the settlers made a peace treaty. Squanto proved a great blessing to them. He showed them how to plant Indian corn, where to fish, and remained their faithful friend until his death in 1622.



The summer of 1621 was fine, and the little company at New Plymouth reaped a good harvest. The Mayflower had sailed for England in April, taking with her a sad tale of sickness and death among the colonists. But in November, to the Pilgrims' joy, another ship arrived from England, the Fortune. She brought with her 35 new settlers, who increased the population of New Plymouth to over 80 men, women, and children.



The Colonists' peaceful relations with the Indians were threatened by a war-like tribe called the Narragansets, who were jealous of the white men's friendship with Massassowit. They sent a messenger to New Plymouth with a bundle of arrows tied up in snakeskin—a declaration of war. Squanto told the Pilgrims. They at once set to work to fortify their settlement, building a stout stockade round it and keeping a vigilant watch day and night.

Will the Narragansets attack the tiny settlement? See next week's instalment

The Children's Newspaper, April 6, 1957

Susan and her brother Nicky have formed themselves into a firm which they call **ODD-JOBBERs, LTD.**, and have advertised that they are willing to undertake any job they are asked to do during their school holidays. This is the story of one of the jobs that came their way.

9. Removal contractors

FOR as long as they could remember, ever since they had first started going to school, at any rate, Susan and Nicky had bought their sweets every week from old Grannie Myers at her tiny sweet shop in a back street: a little box of a room with one window and a counter along the back wall.

Grannie Myers herself was so tiny that she could only just be seen above the jars of sweets ranged along her counter, and she had to stand on tip-toe to take the money from her customers. No one knew how old she was, but her hair was like spun silver, her face rose-pink, and her voice hardly louder than those of her two budgies in the cage hanging from the ceiling of her shop.

Calling for their weekly supply of sweets one afternoon, Susan and Nicky were astonished to see a notice in the window saying that Grannie Myers's shop was closing down. When they went inside, they were dismayed to find that she had red rings round her eyes, which she kept dabbing with a corner of her flowered apron.

"I say," Nicky said, "you aren't shutting up shop, are you?"

The old lady shook her head. "N-no, dears," she answered. "I am having to leave my little shop, where I have sold sweets for fifty years, because the property is going to be demolished. But I have found another little shop in another street, and I shall be going there from here."

"Well, then," Susan said, "something else must be worrying you, because anyone can see that you are unhappy. Won't you tell us what it is?"

Grannie Myers dabbed at another tear and smoothed out her apron. "I am in *such* a pickle," she said. "I have got to move out of here tomorrow, and Joe Binks, who was going to move me, can't manage it after all. His wife is ill again, and, as I expect you know, Joe Binks will never stir from his cottage when his wife is ill. So now I just don't know *what* I shall do. I can't possibly afford a bigger—"

Brainwave

"You don't have to!" Nicky interrupted her. "I've had a brain-wave."

"What are we going to do?" Susan asked when they had left.

"Simple as pie," Nicky answered. "We borrow Joe Binks's donkey-cart and do the job ourselves. That will do everybody a good turn. I expect Grannie Myers was going to pay him for his services. Well, we will do the job, and have all the fun; he will get

Join in the fun with Nicky and Susan, proprietors of . . .

ODD-JOBBERs, LTD.

By Garry Hogg

the money, and Grannie Myers will get the move. See?"

Joe Binks was delighted. As an old friend of Grannie Myers, he had been badly torn between his duty to his wife and his duty towards the old lady. "That's right, my dears," he said. "You be round here first thing tomorrow morning. I'll have Jenny harnessed and ready for you. Six trips, I reckoned when I went to check up. Gave her a cut price, I did. Good luck to you, and thanks for the notion."

They called in at the sweet shop and reported progress. "First

That was soon done. Grannie Myers put the budgie cage in a safe corner and then helped to load the counter onto the cart. Looking back as they drove away with it, they saw her wave and smile.

At the other end they slid the counter off the cart and set it up in the new shop, which Susan opened with the key the old lady had given her. "Now there will be room for the bottles and jars and things," she said, as she locked up again and they turned round for their second load.

The last journey

Joe Binks had thoughtfully provided some sacks, and Susan spread these out in the bottom of the cart before they began to load the sweet jars into it. Four more journeys, and everything had been taken to the new shop except the budgie cage and Grannie Myers's till. For the last journey, then, Susan took the reins, Grannie Myers sat in the cart and nursed her budgie cage on her knees, and Nicky led Jenny through the street just in case by any chance anything happened to frighten her, since their cargo this time was specially important!

"Oh, dearie me!" said Grannie Myers, when she had climbed down from the donkey-cart, unlocked the door of her new shop, and looked in. The floor was almost completely covered with jars and cartons and things. "There is hardly room to put your feet down, is there!" She pointed to some lengths of wood that were leaning against one wall. "Joe Binks was going to put those shelves up for me. I had forgotten that."

"I know," said Susan. "What about you going round and offering to spend the afternoon with Mrs. Binks?" she said. "Then Joe Binks could come along here and put up the shelves, and Nicky and I would help, wouldn't we?"

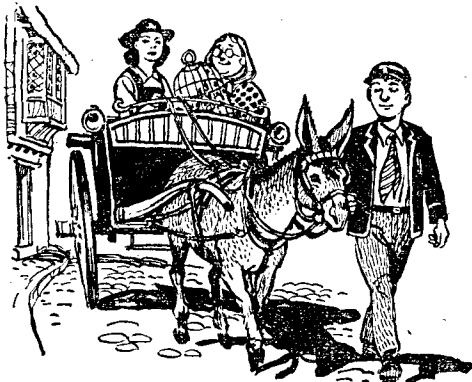
"You bet!" he answered. "I'm an absolute wizard with a hammer and nails and screws and things. Carpentering is my favourite hobby!"

Agreement

Grannie Myers looked intensely relieved as they locked up the little shop and all three went round to Joe Binks to see what he thought of the idea.

"Sure thing," he said heartily, when they had put the matter to him. "If there is one person I am happy to leave Ellen with, it's you, Grannie Myers; you don't need me to tell you that, do you? We will have those shelves of yours up in a jiffy!"

So Susan and Nicky took the sandwiches they had brought with them and, when they had seen to Jenny's needs, sat together in the garden and munched them happily.



Nicky led Jenny through the street

thing tomorrow, mind!" Susan said, and left Grannie Myers still hardly believing her ears. If she was crying now, it was with relief.

Susan and Nicky were so excited that they had hardly swallowed the last mouthfuls of their breakfast before they were dashing off on their bicycles to Joe Binks's to collect Jenny and the donkey-cart.

Grannie Myers was waiting for them. In fact, from the look of her shop they guessed she had been there for some time, packing up her stock in readiness for the removal.

All packed up

The big glass jars of sweets that always made such a gay show along her counter were all wrapped separately in crinkly cardboard and standing in rows on the floor. The boxes of loose chocolates were shut and tied up with string. The bottles of lemonade and orangeade were standing in cardboard containers. The painting-books, boxes of paints, packets of crayons, and the other small things she sold as well as sweets were all stacked tidily in a corner.

The budgerigar cage still hung from the hook in the ceiling, and the two budgies were chattering away as though they had a pretty good idea that something out of the ordinary was afoot.

"Right," said Nicky. "Now we'll move the counter to the middle of the shop so that I can reach high enough to get the budgie cage down, and then we'll take the counter on the donkey-cart for our first trip."

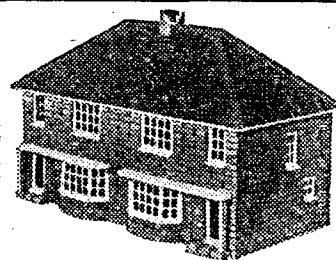
jars of sweets on them, and set out the counter as much as possible as Grannie Myers had always had it set out during the fifty years that she had stood behind it. Last thing of all, Joe Binks screwed a big hook into a beam that ran across the low ceiling, reached up, and hung the budgie cage from it. The two budgies let out a squeak of approval as their cage danced on its spring. The job was done.

"Tea-time," announced Joe Binks. "Back we go. We'll have a cuppa and a cake, and then you can bring Grannie Myers back."

But Grannie Myers could not wait for a "cuppa." Back she came with them as fast as possible, unlocked her little shop, and darted behind the counter. "Oh, it's lovely!" she said, as she stood and looked about her, at the new shelves, the well-spread counter, and last of all at the budgie cage hanging from the ceiling. "Oh, thank you, Odd-Jobbers, Ltd., thank you! Whatever would I have done without you?"

Feeling slightly embarrassed, Nicky felt in his pocket and pulled out a sixpence. "Sixpenn'orth of those toffees, please," he said gruffly.

Nicky and Susan will be back again next week in another adventure of *Odd-Jobbers, Ltd.*



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LOOKING AT THE SKY

MYSTERY OF THE MISSING WORLD

JUPITER continues to dominate the evening sky by appearing as the brightest of the stellar host. The planet Mars, however, which was Jupiter's rival in apparent brilliance a few months ago, is now quite an insignificant object low in the north-west. Just now Mars appears some way above the red-dish star Aldebaran which Mars resembles, but is not likely to be confused with owing to its higher altitude.

A good opportunity will occur on the evenings of April 5 and 6 for definitely identifying Mars, because the crescent Moon will be in the vicinity. Mars will be above



and to the left of the Moon on Friday evening, and some way to the right of the Moon on Saturday evening.

With the lengthening days and the increasing distance of Mars, we are unlikely to see much more of this most interesting world this year. At present it is about 185 million miles distant. It is gradually increasing in distance until by September 21 next, Mars will pass far behind and beyond the Sun, and will then be about 245 million miles away.

With Jupiter so prominent in the evening sky we may visualise the relative distances of these two worlds, for Jupiter is now about 408 million miles away. It is the immensity of Jupiter—about 8500 times greater than Mars—which accounts for its much greater radiance.

BODE'S LAW

It is now of interest to note the vast space that exists between their orbits. So great is this space that astronomers long ago considered that another planet should exist between the orbits to conform to a curious regularity in the spacing between the then known planets from Mercury to Uranus. This was represented numerically as Bode's Law (after the 18th-century German astronomer, Johann Bode), according to which a world should have existed with an orbit averaging 280 million miles from the Sun.

Instead, there was this great unaccountable space between Mars, at an average distance of about 141 million miles from the Sun, and Jupiter, at the average distance of 483 million miles. A long search for the missing world began after the year 1772, but it was not until the night of January 1, 1801, that part of it was found by the astronomer Guiseppe Piazzi at his observatory in Palermo, and named Ceres. Its average distance from the Sun was about 257 mil-

lion miles. But Ceres was found to be a world only 420 miles in diameter instead of at least 20,000 miles in diameter as expected.

Soon afterwards, however, Pallas, Juno, and Vesta were discovered; these were bodies similar to Ceres but smaller and with orbits in the same region as that of Ceres. Since 1845, when Astraea was found, increasing numbers have been discovered, until by now more than 1600 have actually been recorded, numbered, and named.

WORLD IN FRAGMENTS

They are all much smaller than the first few that were discovered; many are no more than 50 miles in diameter, and most of them appear to be merely masses of rock-like mountains broken loose. From what has been discovered, it is believed that there are at least 50,000 fragments of a world that met with disaster revolving between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

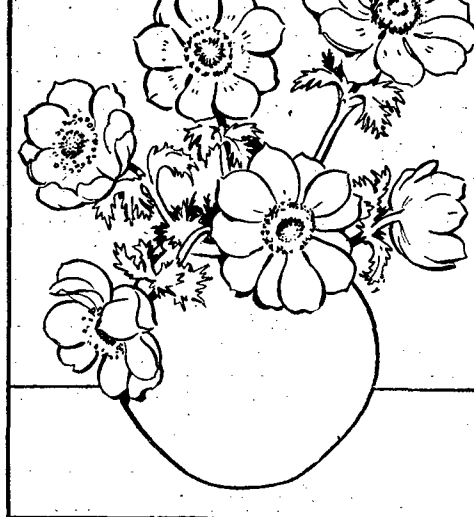
Quite a number approach dangerously close to this great world, and there is little doubt that seven of Jupiter's twelve moons (inadvertently stated as nine in the CN of March 9) are "captured" planetoids. The moons of Mars also appear to be captured portions of this destroyed world. Some fragments, a few miles in diameter, have passed dangerously close to our Earth.

G. F. M.

CN Competition Corner

POCKET-MONEY FOR PAINTINGS

POCKET-MONEY to spend how you like . . . a cash prize of £1 for each of the five winners of this week's competition, and 5s. Postal Orders for ten runners-up. All under 17 living in Great Britain, Ireland, and the Channel Islands may enter—free!



This colouring is entirely my own work

Full Name.....Age.....

Your Address.....

Parent/Guardian's Signature.....

CUT OUT ROUND THIS LINE

To try for a prize, first cut out the picture and coupon together and paste them on a postcard. When they are dry, use paints or crayons to colour the bowl of anemones as carefully and imaginatively as possible.

Fill in your name, age, and address on the coupon, ask an adult to sign it as your own work, and post to:

C N Competition
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(Comp.)

to arrive by Tuesday, April 16, the closing date of this contest.

Cash prizes of £1 will be awarded for each of the five best colourings received, age being taken into account. 5s. Postal Orders for the ten next best. The Editor's decision is final.



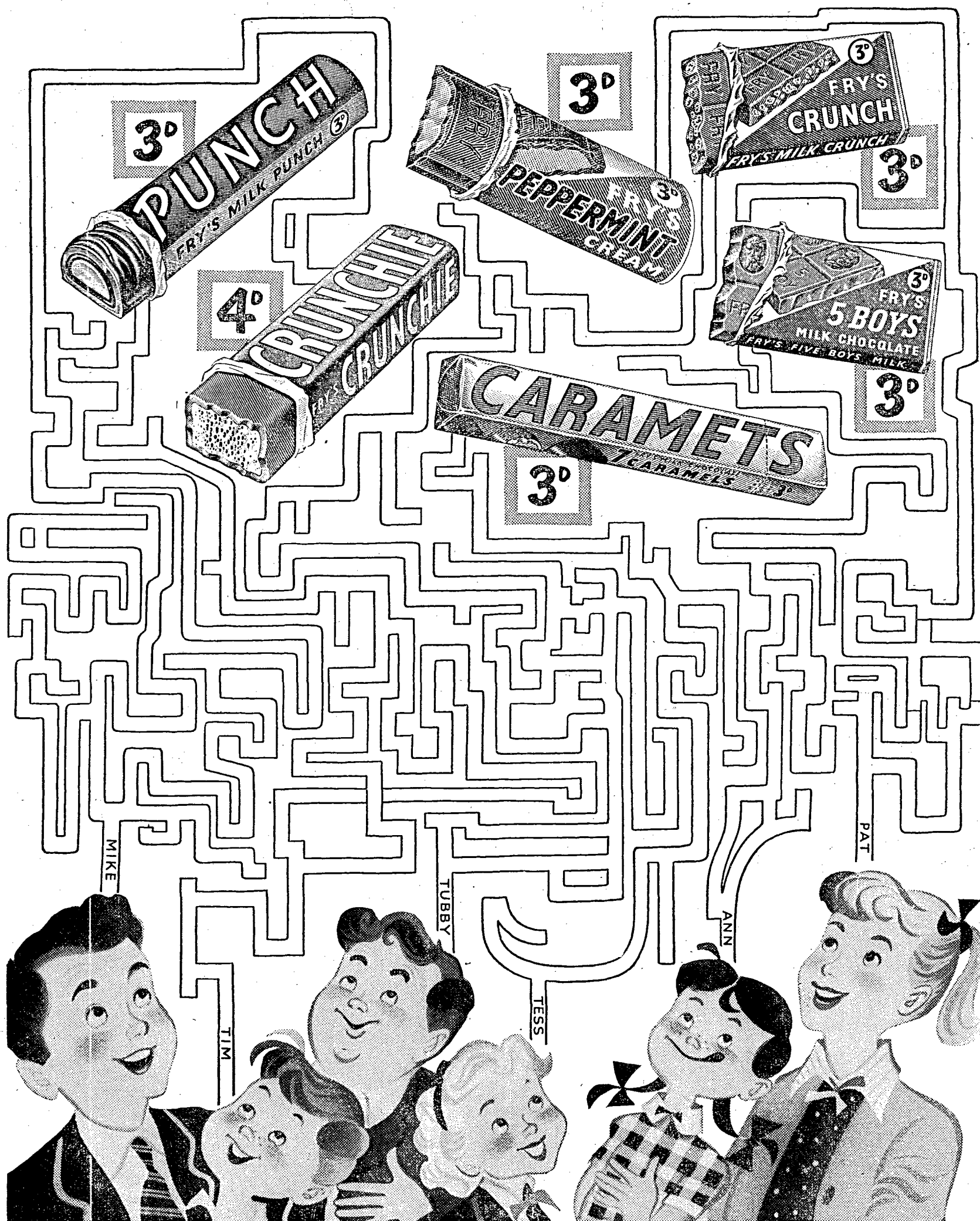
Old friend preserved

Windmills in a familiar landscape are like old friends, and several have been restored lately in Essex. Here is one at Upminster, favourite spot for these two lads who live nearby. Action by the County Council has made sure that the old mill will have a new lease of life.

CAMBRIDGE REMEMBERS CAESAR

Cambridge undergraduates un- officially commemorated the 2000th anniversary of the assassination of Julius Caesar by performing the assassination scene from Shakespeare's play on the Senate House steps.

This showed a fine sense of occasion, for it was in the Senate House at Rome that Caesar was murdered by his misguided friend Marcus Brutus. The actual date of his death was March 15, 44 B.C.



WHO WANTS WHICH? Follow the thoughts of the Fry Gang (without crossing any lines!) and see how quickly you can find out which Fry bar each is dreaming of. Try it with your friends, see who does it soonest. And then follow your own thoughts—treat yourself to the Fry bar you like best!

NOT QUITE WHAT SHE MEANT

THE young lady was appealing for refreshments for the church social. "What we need," she concluded, with a winning smile, "are not abstract promises, but concrete cakes."

SPOT THE . . .

FOX-CUBS, playful as kittens, as they roll and tumble outside their earth, the name given to the home of a fox.

Generally born at this time of year, they are blind for the first



ten days. They do not leave their underground home for about a month. Then Mother Fox takes them outside for exercise and their education begins. Throughout the summer they are taught to hunt and catch their prey.

With the arrival of winter the family breaks up, and the cubs set off alone, each to fend for itself.

THE KING'S WISDOM

AT the Court of Henry VIII a nobleman complained to the King that he had been treated rudely by Holbein, the great painter. But Henry had a warm regard for the artist and refused to listen to the complaint.

Said he: "Give me seven peasants and I will make as many lords; but of seven lords I could not make one Holbein."

SEVEN SINS

The answers to these seven clues all begin with sin. Can you say what they are?

GENUINE; tendon; musical performer; one; in the kitchen; burn; villainous.

THE NAME'S THE SAME

The answers to the following clues all begin with a boy's name. What are they?

TINY fairy tale character.
Small bird.
African drum.
Day after today.
A fruit.
Red Indian weapon.

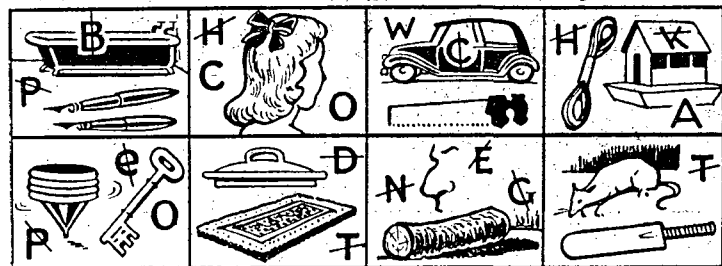
FIND THE SWEET THING

Something very sweet is hidden in this sentence. Do you know what it is?

ON a lofty bough one young squirrel was seen.

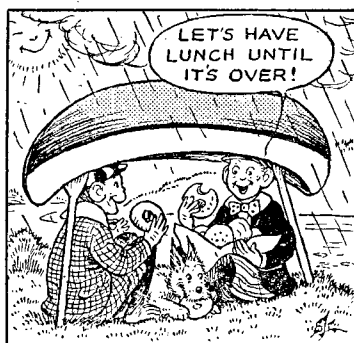
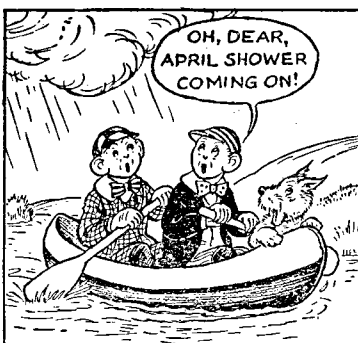
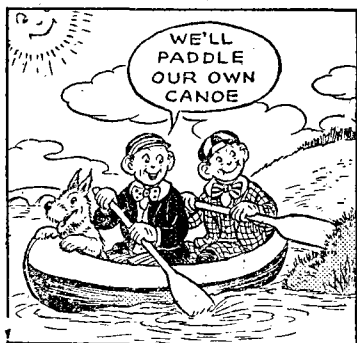
EIGHT CAPITALS TO FIND

ANSWERS to each of these picture-puzzles are capital cities of eight countries. Can you say what they are?



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LUNCH UNDER COVER FOR JACKO AND CHIM



BEDTIME TALE

PUFFING BILLY SAVES HIS BREATH

ONE day Jean called at Billy's house to borrow his bicycle pump. "My tyres are a bit flat and I can't find my pump anywhere."

Billy got his pump from the garden shed and went across to Jean's house to help her blow up the tyres. After he had made them hard they wandered into the kitchen where Jean's mother was working.

"Hallo, you two," she said. "I'm afraid you can't help me today, I'm far too busy making the jellies and cakes for your party tomorrow, Jean."

Then, seeing that the two children were disappointed, she added:

"I know. You can help me by blowing up the balloons we shall hang from the ceiling. They are in the paper bag on the sideboard."

They found the balloons and Jean got some thread from Mummy's work-basket. "I'll blow,"

she said, "and you can tie the thread round the end while I hold it."

Billy held the thread ready as Jean puffed and puffed—but the balloon grew no bigger.

"Let me try one," said Billy, as Jean sank back into the armchair.

He blew and blew, his face getting redder and redder. "It's no use," he panted. "They are just too thick to blow up."

Suddenly he jumped out of the chair and dashed out of the room, returning a moment later waving the bicycle pump.

"This will do the trick," he chortled. It did, too. In no time at all they had blown up 20 balloons. Then they went into the kitchen to tell Jean's Mummy.

"Don't tell me you've finished already!" she cried.

"Of course," said Billy. "It's quite easy when you get the knack—and a pump to save your breath."

STUDENTS BOTH

A LITTLE boy sat on the edge of a pond.

While a bullfrog sat in the pool, And each one studied the other with care

Like scholars in classroom at school.

Then at last the little boy spoke and said:

"Why, Frog, do you gaze so at me?"

Pray, swim or jump, that I may then learn

Some Natural History!"

The frog he croaked out in reply:

"That's what I'm here for, too. I'm studying Boys and their curious ways,

For I've nothing else to do!"

WHAT HE KNEW

SOCRATES was once told by the oracle of Delphi that he was the wisest man in all Greece.

"If that is so," replied Socrates, "it is because I alone of all the Greeks know that I know nothing."

THE OLD MILL

No one comes now
To the old mill.
It stands in peace.
Its wheels are still.

But long ago
It ground the corn,
The whole day long,
From early morn.

And then the flour
Was used for bread.
"I fed them all!"
The old mill said.

QUIZ CORNER ANSWERS

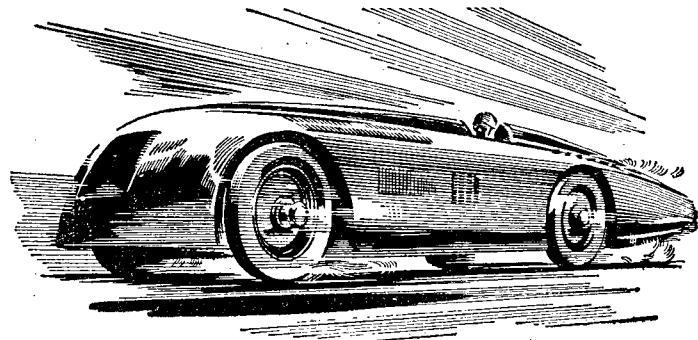
1. Himalaya Mountains on the border between Nepal and Tibet.
2. Weasel-like animal, nearly three feet long, found in the far north of the Old and New Worlds.
3. Belgium and the Netherlands.
4. At Sandringham, in Norfolk, is the country house where the Royal Family often spends its holidays.
5. Ermine, the white winter fur of the stoat.
6. These are special days when banks are legally closed and so are kept as general holidays.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Seven sins. Sincere, sinew, singer, single, sink, singe, sinister.
The name's the same. Tom Thumb, Tom Tit, Tom Tom, Tomorrow, Tomato, Tomahawk.
Find the sweet thing. Honey.
Eight capitals to find. Athens (Greece), Cairo (Egypt), Warsaw (Poland), Ankara (Turkey), Tokyo (Japan), Lima (Peru), Oslo (Norway), Rabat (Morocco).
Muddled menu. Starting at the second R in the top row we get: roast lamb, cabbage, chips, apple pie, custard. What am I?
Name me. Foxglove.
Quiz of the sea. The owl and the pussy cat; the butcher, baker, and candlestick maker; the Jumbies; Wynken, Blynken, and Nod; Three wise men of Gotham.
Catch question. A halfpenny and three penny piece. One coin was not a three penny piece—but the other was!

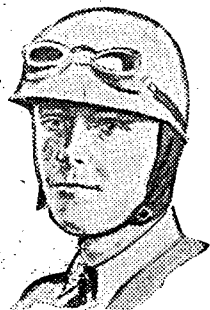
LAST WEEK'S ANSWER

BLARE PAN
UERMINE
I SERPENT
LEADS RU
TARS SCAB
SD SPELL
STILLED E
HENDON A
ERE ETHER



SPEED ON WHEELS No. 2

Nineteen twenty-seven was a great year in the history of speed. It saw the passing of the double-century in land travel—200 m.p.h. The late Sir Henry Segrave was the hero of this venture. He planned his attempt with great thoroughness. His car was powered by Sunbeam aero engines front and rear, and the complete chassis was enveloped in an aluminium shell. The Dunlop Company designed for this monster special tyres to serve at over 200 m.p.h. In March Segrave and his team sailed for America. At Daytona Beach on the 29th of that month he made his bid, and triumphed. His speed of 203.79 m.p.h. was a new record, and the opening of a new realm in speed on wheels.



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